REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF FIFTY ON THE FORWARD MOVEMENT
JUNE, 1919

To the Venerable the General Assembly:

A number of ministers and elders in all parts of the Church united to overture the General Assembly of June, 1918, in the following terms:

WHEREAS this war is making it more manifest than ever before that the hope of the World lies in the awakening of a Christian consciousness powerful enough to dominate all other forces and enlist them in the service of humanity, and

WHEREAS the conviction is deepening that the witness of the Church has been too feeble and too much permeated with the spirit of the World rightly to interpret to the World the spirit of Jesus Christ, and that the hour has come when the Church should awaken to a new sense of her responsibility and take action worthy of the impressive times in which we live, and

WHEREAS the Boards of the Church find it impossible to meet the needs and opportuntiies of the present hour through lack of workers and of financial support, and

WHEREAS the exigencies of recent days have revealed new possibilities as to self-sacrifice, philanthropy and consecration of wealth, manhood and life, and

WHEREAS other sections of the Church of Christ in this and in other lands have either already organized, or are contemplating the organization of aggressive spiritual movements,

The General Assembly is therefore humbly overtured to issue a call to united prayer, to reconsecration of life and wealth, and to such other practical efforts as will help to secure:

(1) A fuller witness to the power of Christ to heal the wounds of humanity, meet the immeasurable need of hungry souls and regenerate the world.

(2) The attraction of candidates to the Ministry in such numbers and quality as will meet the requirements of the Church at home and abroad.

(3) The reinforcement of the financial position of the Church so as to make adequate provision for the maintenance and expansion of all her work.

RESOLUTION OF ASSEMBLY

After full and earnest discussion the following resolution was adopted:

"The Assembly receives and approves the overture, and, in accordance with the request therein presented, appoints a committee, representative of all sections of the Church with instructions, after a careful survey of conditions and needs in Canada and in the Foreign Fields of the Church,

"1. To issue a call to prayer and to such individual consecration of wealth and life as will serve to conserve and perpetuate in the service of Christ the spirit of sacrifice and devotion so nobly exemplified during the war.

"2. To inaugurate a Forward Movement that will include,

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"(a) An educational campaign designed to place before the whole Church the needs of the work and the challenge of the present crisis, and, so far as practicable, in co-operation with the other Christian Churches of Canada.

"(b) An organized effort to secure candidates for the Ministry and other workers in such numbers and of such quality as will meet the requirements of the Church at home and abroad.

"(c) A financial objective, based on a careful survey of conditions and adequate to the need, to be undertaken in such a form and at such a time as the committee may determine.

"3. That it be an injunction to the Boards of the Church to make a survey of their fields and report to this committee."

At a later sederunt the Assembly appointed the committee called for in this resolution to inaugurate and carry through the Movement. The committee consisted of fifty members with Revs. Dr. Robert Laird, Dr. R. P. MacKay, Dr. Somerville, Dr. R. D. Fraser, Dr. J. C. Robertson, Dr. J. G. Shearer, and J. H. Edmison as members ex-officio, and Principal Gandier as Chairman. The Assembly also appointed an Executive, consisting of: the Moderator, the Toronto and Hamilton members of the Committee, Dr. W. J. Clark of Montreal and Rev. D. C. McGregor of London. The Finance Board was authorized by the Assembly to arrange for the expenses of the Committee.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE

The Executive met at the call of the chairman on Tuesday, July 16th. It was then decided that the Committee of Fifty should be called to meet for two days, on September 26th and 27th, 1918, and that in accordance with the resolution of the Assembly:

"The Boards of the Church be requested to prepare and submit to the first meeting of the Committee a preliminary statement of present conditions, resources and needs in workers and finance, of future requirements in necessary increase in the Annual Budget, in building, equipment, or endowment funds, in order to the effective accomplishment of the Church's work, having in view particularly the demands created by the War and the opportunities offered the Church in the New Era upon which we shall embark at the dawn of Peace."

It was agreed that the Boards referred to in the Assembly's resolution were the following:

"Home Missions and Social Service (including the Church and Manse Board), Foreign Missions, Theological College Boards, Missionary and Deaconess Training Home, Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools, Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies, Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, and Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund."

Sub-committees were appointed on:

1. Prayer.
2. Stewardship.
3. Literature and Publicity.
4. Recruits for the Ministry.
5. Educational Campaign.
6. Financial Objective and Time and Method of Financial Campaign.

These sub-committees were instructed to do such preliminary work as might be necessary, and report to the meeting of the Committee of Fifty in September.

A request was sent to the Executive of the Board of Education asking that Professors from the Theological Colleges, who might be set at liberty for the whole

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or part of the year owing to war conditions and the small number of students, should give as much time as possible to the Educational Campaign in connection with the Forward Movement. Principals Gandier and Dyde have given most of their time during the year, while a number of other professors have assisted for longer or shorter periods.

THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTY

As arranged by the Executive, the Committee of Fifty met on September 26th and 27th, 1918, and with them a number of Associate Members who had been asked to serve on the sub-committees. The Boards of the Church, through their representatives, presented the results of the preliminary surveys already made, as to the needs, resources and future requirements of the work under their administration. Next day the sub-committees reported:

The Sub-Committee on Prayer reaffirmed the conviction of the Church that the Word of God interpreted and applied by the Holy Ghost in answer to prayer is the divinely appointed agency for the conversion of men and for the emancipation and reconstruction of society in the World, and, among others, presented the following recommendations, which were adopted:

(1) That a League of Prayer be organized consisting of all who will voluntarily enlist in the Fellowship of Intercession, in behalf of the Forward Movement, and that all who are members of this league be kept informed as to the progress of the Movement in order that prayer may be definite, intelligent and prevailing.

(2) Inasmuch as the family is the unit of society and the nursery of true piety, that it be a recommendation to every Presbytery in the Church, that determined effort be put forth to secure family worship in every home within its bounds and that aids for prayer be provided for all who may deem such aids necessary or desirable.

(3) That a day of prayer in behalf of the Movement be agreed upon—the date to be preferably after Presbyteries have considered and endorsed the Movement, and further that other sections of the Church be invited to co-operate in the selection and observance of such a day as may be agreed upon as suitable to all.

(4) That a message be sent to all our Foreign Mission Fields inviting the co-operation in prayer of all mis[illegible] of all Native Churches, that the overflow of the Movement may reach [illegible] ermost parts and that they and we may rejoice together in copious show[illegible] ndant harvest.

(5) That all who will, be invited to pause at 12 o'clock for a few moments and lift the heart in supplication to the Throne of Grace, that showers may fall and His weary heritage be refreshed.

In the report of the **Sub-Committee on Stewardship,** which was adopted, the conviction was expressed that while all we are and all we have is a trust committed to us as stewards, a definite proportion of the time and money of every professed follower of Jesus Christ should be given to distinctively Christian Work. In the use of this proportionate part of our time there is the direct responsibility of each generation to hand on the best it has to the next generation, and best of all the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To every Christian man to-day, there comes a very special challenge to give generously of his time and of himself to spiritual leadership of boys, and to every Christian woman the similar challenge to help girls.

Opportunities for this service are provided by the Church in the Sunday School and Young People's Societies and all similar organizations for training the young in Christian life and service. Every adult Christian should be actively engaged in some definite form of Christian service.

In the use of this proportionate part of our money there is the direct responsibility for extending the kingdom both at home and abroad. We believe that every Christian should systematically follow the plan of proportionate giving, each one laying by in store on the first day of the week as the Lord hath prospered him.

The Committee expressed their belief that all giving of both time and money should be sacrificial, and recommended that an educational campaign on proportionate giving of time and money should be an essential part of the Forward Movement, to be promoted by a series of sermons from the pulpit, by the preparation and distribution of leaflet literature, and by suitable courses of study in adult Bible Classes, etc.

The Committee on Recruits for the Ministry presented a report in which they set forth the urgent need for immediate efforts to secure men to fill the depleted ranks of the Ministry of our Church and expressed the conviction that this is possible only if a more adequate conception of the Church, her mission and her ministry, is fostered among our people. The committee presented in detail figures to show that during the past 25 years the population of Canada had increased from 4,800,000 to 8,000,000, the number of preaching stations in our Church from 2,606 to 4,478, the number of communicants from 174,000 to 337,000 and that during this period there had been a positive decrease in the number of men in college preparing for the Ministry of our Church. This condition of things existed even before the War and some of the causes enumerated were:

(1) Defective spiritual life, and lack of religious influence in the homes of the people.

(2) The many attractive openings for bright young men in a great and developing country.

(3) The attractiveness of other forms of Christian service, such as the Y.M.C.A. and Social Service.

(4) Inadequate salaries.

(5) Insecurity of tenure and uncertain prospects for advancing years.

(6) Present method, or lack of method, in settling ministers.

(7) Lack of flexibility in College curriculums.

(8) Present formula of subscription to the subordinate standards of the Church.

The following methods of meeting the situation were suggested:

(1) The quickening and elevation of the religious tone of home and congregational life.

(2) A Special Committee in each Presbytery to secure that likely lads and intending candidates for the Ministry should be reported by the ministers each year and personal relations maintained with them in their home, school and college life.

(3) Interdenominational effort to reach the boys in the High Schools and the students in our Universities.

(4) Special effort to keep in touch with our men overseas and enlist returned soldiers.

(5) Deputation work by Student Missionary Societies.

(6) Enlarging and strengthening the Bursary Funds to give adequate financial assistance to worthy candidates when needed.

(7) More adequate salaries and pension funds, together with better methods of settling Ministers.

(8) Above all, a new emphasis on the dignity and importance of the ministerial office and the grandeur of the supreme adventure which the Christian Ministry offers in the world situation of the present and coming days.

The following recommendations from the **Committee on Literature and Publicity** were adopted:

(1) That there be issued during the next twelve months a Bulletin devoted to advertising the Movement and informing the people of its progress, and that at the same time fullest use be made of the "Presbyterian Record", "East and West", "Presbyterian and Westminster" and "Presbyterian Witness". The editors of all these publications have expressed their willingness to co-operate.

(2) That Leaflets for Presbyteries and for popular distribution be issued from time to time dealing with the various phases of the Movement and the work of the different Boards.

(3) That Lantern Slides, Charts, etc., be prepared and used to the fullest extent possible.

(4) That the daily and weekly press should be utilized, especially at the time of the Financial Campaign.

(5) That the Committee on Literature and Publicity be authorized to procure such editorial and publicity assistance as might be necessary.

The Committee on Educational Campaign presented a tentative plan for the presentation of the Movement to Autumn Meetings of Synods and to all Special Meetings of Presbyteries in October and November. Each Synod and each Presbytery would be asked to appoint a committee on the Forward Movement, and each Presbytery would be requested to arrange, through its committee, to have at least eight days of special services in every congregation within its bounds, the Central Committee to co-operate so far as possible in helping to provide speakers and in supplying literature.

It was also agreed on recommendation of this committee that the Women's Missionary Societies, East and West, be asked to participate in this campaign.

The Committee on Financial Objectives felt that the time had not come when any final report could be given as to what the Financial Objectives of the Movement ought to be, but made the general recommendation that following the Educational Work to be carried on during the next twelve months there should be an organized campaign to secure an adequate capital amount for urgently needed buildings, equipment and extension in connection with the work at home and abroad and for the better endowment of the Pension Funds of the Church. It was further recommended that, progressively, over the next five years, an effort be made to increase the Budget for Maintenance to at least double the present income.

In conference with the Executive of the Assembly's Board of Finance it was agreed that the expenses of the Movement be a charge on the Budget funds.

As the Assembly had suggested the possibility of co-operation with the other Christian churches in Canada in a Forward Movement the Chairman was asked to communicate with the official heads of the other Protestant Churches.

The Executive was empowered to secure the services of Rev. J. W. Woodside as Secretary of the Movement to give his whole time to the work, or failing him to make other appointment. As Mr. Woodside was prevented accepting because of a call to Chalmer's Church, Ottawa, the Executive, after full consideration and with the consent of the Board of Finance, asked the Rev. Dr. Robert Laird, Secretary of the Board of Finance, to act as Secretary of the Forward Movement, with the understanding that he should have the best office help available, and that ministers should be released in the different synods to help organize the educational and financial campaigns in Presbyteries and Congregations.

As the colleges had all reported separately a **Committee on Colleges** was appointed which afterwards set before the Executive the following facts:

The Church has eight colleges, situated in connection with eight important Universities. These colleges—together with the colleges of other denominations—take the place of Theological Faculties for the Universities and contribute their share with the other faculties in the general educational work of the country. This is a necessary part of the Church's work which cannot be done by any other agency. In some cases the same professors lecture to the students of the University and to those of the Theological College, and in all cases the relation is intimate and to the advantage of both. The presence of the college where many students are found in Arts proves an important factor in obtaining recruits for the Ministry. In maintaining these colleges the Church provides a powerful instrument for advancing the Kingdom of God in the nation.

Rather more than half the cost of maintaining these colleges comes in revenue from Endowment, and about $70,000 annually from contributions of congregations. The three newest Western colleges are practically without buildings or endowment, and their need is urgent. The material equipment of the older colleges is sufficient to meet the needs of the immediate future. Some have hampering debts and all feel the need of a Forward Movement to meet changing conditions of the New Era following the War. Never were the ranks of Students for the Ministry so thinned and broken, and never was the need for intelligent leadership so great. The colleges therefore must take united action in seeking new recruits, in keeping in touch with the Church's students overseas, and in providing summer sessions for the more speedy training of returned men.

Extension of the work of the Colleges along the line of training lay-workers, and giving to all a more thorough training in Religious Education, Social Service and Christian Missions was suggested. Whatever increase this may involve in equipment or staff the Church must provide.

In accordance with one of these suggestions the Committee on Recruits for the Ministry in connection with the Executive of the Board of Education has arranged to have the four Eastern colleges unite in holding a Summer Session for Returned Men at Kingston. The session is now in progress with more than a dozen men of good quality in attendance.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The Synods of Toronto and Kingston, of Montreal and Ottawa, and of the Maritime Provinces, met in October and full time was given for presentation of the Forward Movement in its various aspects. Special meetings of Presbyteries throughout the entire Church were arranged for October and November but the "Flu" epidemic upset all plans, and arrangements had to be made over again. This was done and during the winter months each Presbytery from the Atlantic to the Pacific was visited by representatives of the Committee of Fifty.

In connection with the presentation of the Home Mission situation and needs, emphasis was placed on the necessity of relating the Gospel Message to the industrial, social and political conditions of our time. In the presentation of the Foreign Mission situation and needs it was pointed out that not only the War but the coming in of Western standards of living to the Orient was necessarily adding to the cost of all buildings and all service in the Foreign Field, so that not only was a large Building and Equipment Fund required but an increase for maintenance of at least 25 per cent. to maintain the work as it now is before entering upon any Forward Movement.

The urgent need for a Forward Movement in the religious education of the children and young people was constantly emphasized, also the immediate need for an increase in stipends, and a better provision for the Pension Funds.

In each Presbytery there was presented the five-fold call of the Movement to: (1) Penitence, (2) Prayer, (3) Individual Consecration, (4) Increased readiness on the part of our young people to give their lives to the Christian Ministry, and to the

loudly crying Mission Fields, (5) Stewardship—a new sense of responsibility for the use of money in the Lord's work, a more adequate support of the Lord's Army.

In most of these Presbytery Meetings great interest was shown. A deeply spiritual note was struck, and many Presbyteries by a standing vote entered into a solemn covenant with their God to give themselves in a renewed consecration to the aims of the Forward Movement. In several Presbyteries this covenant was sealed by a common participation in the emblems of our Lord's broken body and shed blood.

The campaign among the Presbyteries was only a means to an end, and in each Presbytery a Committee on the Forward Movement was appointed, and plans made for starting an Educational Campaign and inaugurating the Movement in all congregations by a series of Special Services. The aim in all these services has been to impress upon the people the urgency of the crisis through which the Church is passing, to make them feel the need of Canada and that part of the heathen world for which our Church is responsible, as revealed by the surveys just made, and help them see that the Church can hope for success in her world-wide campaign only if she is prepared to enlist her men and make sacrifices on the war scale.

In the Maritime Provinces the Synod's Committee and Rev. R. W. Ross of Fort Massey Church, Halifax, have given much time to assist the Presbytery Committees in organizing and carrying through the Educational Campaign in congregations.

In the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, Rev. S. T. Martin of Melville Church, Westmount, and Rev. R. M. Hamilton of Brockville, have co-operated with the Presbyteries' Committees, while a similar service has been rendered in the Synod of Toronto and Kingston by Rev. W. A. Bremner of Cobourg, and Rev. Jas. Binnie of Parry Sound. Rev. Dr. Martin, of Stratford, has given some weeks to organizing the Educational Campaign in the congregations of the Synod of Hamilton and London, while, in the four Western Provinces, Rev. D. N. McLachlan, of King Memorial Church, Winnipeg, has been set free to give his whole time to organizing and carrying through the campaign in Manitoba, the Rev. W. G. Wilson in Saskatchewan, and the Rev. F. W. Kerr in British Columbia. Alberta is still to be provided for. In all the Synods much direct help is being given by Rev. Dr. Laird and the central office.

In Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, scores of congregations have held an eight-day series of services (in some cases two or three weeks) combining the spirit of devotion and the evangelistic note with the great themes of the Forward Movement. In many congregations these services have marked the beginning of a New Era in the Christian experience and Christian service of the people, and in all there has been a quickening of interest in the work of the Church. In other congregations a shorter series of services has been held, or the Pastor has presented the great themes of the Forward Movement with their challenge at the regular services on successive Sunday mornings. In Western Canada the educational work has begun, and it is hoped to have a very general campaign of education in the congregations during the latter part of June and the early part of July.

Literature and Publicity

Charts and lantern slides setting forth the results of surveys and giving a statement of needs have been prepared, and have been widely used. As Presbyterian Publications has now taken over the Lantern Slide Department, the Committee expects in the immediate future to make available attractive slides for presenting in this vivid form the work of the Church. Literature on all phases of the Movement is being prepared and placed at the disposal of committees and pastors, as they may require. Already twenty-seven leaflets have been issued and freely circulated.

Beginning with January of this year, five numbers of a bulletin named "The Forward Movement" have been published. The object of this bulletin is to make known the significance, scope, and progress of the Movement, and to set forth the

activities and responsibilities of the Church. Sufficient copies have been sent to Ministers to place one in every home, and it is confidently expected that plans will be laid in every congregation for the thorough distribution of these. This publication will be continued throughout the year, and in the autumn months will be issued at more frequent intervals.

At the suggestion and with the help of the Committee on Literature and Publicity, special "Forward Movement" numbers of: the "Presbyterian Record", "East and West", "The Presbyterian and Westminster" and the "Presbyterian Witness" have been published and these papers have, in addition, given liberal space in their regular issues to Forward Movement material. A clipping-sheet of Forward Movement items has also been prepared for use in congregational calendars or bulletins, and the daily press in its "Church News" columns has made important and generous use of material furnished. The Committee has also co-operated with the Committee on Recruits for the Ministry in the competition for the best manuscripts on "The Twentieth Century Minister."

Financial Objectives

After many meetings of the Committee on Financial Objectives and much discussion in joint meetings of the Executive of the Forward Movement and the Executive of the Board of Finance, the following were set forth as the Financial Objective of the Forward Movement.

(1) The doubling of the Church's Budget for Maintenance in the next five years.

(2) A Special Peace Thank Offering of $4,000,000 as an Equipment and Extension Fund to meet the more immediate needs of the New Era. That amount is made up as follows:

Home Missions and Social Service (incuding W.M.S.)	$1,700,000
Foreign Missions	600,000
The Foreign Mission Work of the Women's Missionary Society	200,000
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	500,000
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	250,000
Colleges:	
Westminster Hall	75,000
Robertson College	75,000
Saskatoon College	75,000
Manitoba College	50,000
Knox College	75,000
Queen's College	50,000
Montreal College	50,000
Halifax College	50,000
Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies	40,000
Missionary and Deaconess Training Home	30,000
Pointe-aux-Trembles Mission Schools	20,000
Deficits on Foreign Missions, Pte-aux-Trembles and Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	60,000
To assure an adequate current revenue during the raising of the Equipment and Extension Fund	100,000
	$4,000,000

This total was fixed upon after long consideration as to the least possible amount that would enable the Boards so to equip and expand their work as to put it on a reasonable basis of efficiency and as an amount which might not unreasonably be expected as a Peace Thank Offering from the members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

With reference to *The Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund*, and *the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund*, it was felt to be quite impossible to lift these funds at once to the level suggested at last Assembly, as the total objective of $4,000,000 would only go part way towards that, but it was agreed, after consultation with the Assembly's Special Committee on these Funds, to aim at doubling their present endowments. Afterward it was agreed that owing to the present demand for larger annuities of Aged and Infirm Ministers, $100,000 should be added to the allocation of that fund, making $500,000 in all, which will mean a total endowment for the fund of nearly $1,000,000. This with the doubling of the annual Budget receipts for these funds within the next five years will make possible a very substantial increase in the annuities.

In considering the question of *Colleges*, it was agreed that $75,000 should be set apart for each of the three Western colleges which at the present time have neither permanent buildings or endowments, that $75,000 be allocated to Knox College towards the payment of a debt of nearly $100,000 on the new buildings which were in course of erection when the War broke out; that $50,000 be allocated to each of the other colleges to relieve hampering debts and help provide for such expansion as is most urgently needed.

The general principle adopted was that present indebtedness on Maintenance Account or Buildings should be a first charge on the amount received by each college and that the balance should be used to meet those needs which in the judgment of the college Boards are most urgent.

As to Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools it was agreed that the question of substantial enlargement of the present buildings, or of new buildings on a new site, was a matter of future policy and not within the scope of this Committee. The Committee recommended that $20,000 be allocated to help with such repairs to the present buildings as are urgently needed and add something towards better accommodation for the Teaching Staff. It was also decided to place $60,000 in the Financial Objective to remove existing deficits on Foreign Missions, Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools, Aged and Infirm Ministers' Funds, and $100,000 to assure an adequate revenue for Maintenance during the raising of the Equipment and Extension Fund. With reference to Home and Foreign Missions and the other funds, though the requirements are much in excess of the amounts allocated, it has been the aim of the Committee to make the largest allocation compatible with the total objective of $4,000,000.

Sunday School and Young People's War Memorial

The boys and girls, and young men and young women of the Church, were asked to undertake as their share in the Forward Movement the establishment of a War Memorial which would commemorate worthily the sacrifices and heroism of former members of our Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies who have fallen at the front, and which would at the same time extend the work of the Church amongst boys and girls in Canada and overseas. It was estimated that at least $300,000 might be raised by our Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies for the following objects:

1. Work under the Board of Home Missions and Social Service; Founding seventeen additional school-homes for Canadian boys and girls in Quebec, Northern Ontario and the West.

2. Work under the Board of Foreign Missions: Founding twenty additional Christian Schools for East Indian children in Trinidad and British Guiana; Boys' High School, Formosa; Christian Schools in our Chinese and Korean Missions; Industrial Training in Central India.

3. Work under the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies; Additional extension work in seeking the last boy and girl for whom our Church is responsible and enrolling them in the Sunday School.

In co-operation with the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational and Methodist Churches an effort was initiated at the time of the Victory Loan Campaign of 1918, and schools and societies were urged to buy Victory Bonds and donate them to the Church for the work outlined above. Many schools responded nobly, but owing to the epidemic of influenza nearly all schools were closed during period of the Victory Loan Campaign and the work was seriously arrested. Since then a new start has been made with gratifying results, $73,016 having been subscribed by 550 schools or societies. The majority of our schools have not yet taken action, and an earnest appeal is now being made that they should give themselves to this magnificent Missionary Enterprise, and undertake their share in the Memorial to those who died to make possible this great new day.

A Mural Tablet in the form of a Memorial Shield of oak with solid, silver-grey metal mountings will be sent to each School or Y. P. Society which contributes at least Fifty dollars to the Memorial Fund. Many of the smaller schools are doing much more than this, and it is hoped that in the immediate future every school or society that has not yet done its part will organize its forces to make the Memorial a complete success.

Inter-Church Forward Movement of Canada

The Chairman, in accordance with the instructions of the Committee of Fifty corresponded with Archbishop Matheson of the Anglican Church, with the Chairman of the Baptist Convention, with Dr. Gunn of the Congregational Church, and Dr. Chown, General superintendent of the Methodist Church, telling how the Forward Movement had been initiated in the Presbyterian Church, describing briefly its aims and objects, and suggesting that if a similar movement were being inaugurated in other churches it might be possible to have co-operative and simultaneous action.

The response was immediate and hearty. Informal meetings for conference and prayer were held, and it was decided that authorized representatives of these churches should meet for definite action. Some forty laymen and clergymen of the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Canada came together and agreed that:

"As there are phases of the national and world task which cannot be effectively carried through by the denominations acting separately, and as all are actuated by the same spirit and working for the same great end, there ought to be a simultaneous and co-operative campaign in which the whole Church will be faced with its whole task and a definite effort made to utilize for constructive Christian effort the readiness to give and serve and suffer for a great cause which the War had revealed."

Accordingly, the Inter-Church Forward Movement of Canada was inaugurated, and in addition to denominational organizations a United National Executive has been appointed with a National Director. Provincial Executives, with Provincial Organizers are being appointed and organization will be effected in each local community.

The plan is to have the denominational campaigns for the deepening of Spiritual Life and the enlightenment of the people as to the needs of their own Church's work carried through during the spring and summer. A united Educational Campaign, with a series of great Missionary Congresses at all the centres is being planned for October and November, to be followed by an every-member canvass for a New Era Equipment and Extension Fund that will provide such buildings, equipment, extension, endowment, etc., as will enable the Canadian Churches to fulfil their national mission in the New Era and meet the demands of the world-wide campaign to which Christ has commissioned His followers.

Each denomination will receive and administer its own subscriptions, and, all acting together in the same spirit and for the same end, each will be helped by the others. The simultaneous movement has already assumed national dimensions

and with its totalled objective of at least $12,000,000 will appeal to the imagination as no mere denominational movement could.

This National Campaign is just our Canadian share in a wider movement which is perhaps the most significant event in the New Era—"The Inter-Church Movement of North America."

It requires no great prophetic insight to see that we stand at the end of one age and at the beginning of another. This is a great Day of the Lord for Judgment and for Salvation. We are on the threshold of a new and larger manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth but everything depends on this: Do we know the day of our visitation? and, are we bringing forth fruits meet for repentance? Will we prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight? Who knoweth if we are come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALFRED GANDIER,

Chairman.